

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

T-03 DPW-01 IO-12 ACDA-19 NIC-01 RSR-01 SSO-00 INRE-00

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P R 171304 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3071

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US, VS, VN

SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS ON VIETNAM RUMORS

1. SUMMARY: REACTING TO ALLEGED RUMORS IN WASHINGTON OF POSSIBLE RENEWAL OF US BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM, A POLISH PRESS EDITORIAL HAS CHARACTERIZED AS " TOO IMPRECISE" ACCUSATIONS THAT NORTH VIETNAM IS VIOLATING THE PARIS AGREEMENT BY SENDING NEW TROOPS AND MATERIAL TO SOUTH VIETNAM, AND HAS ACCUSED THE US OF WAGING A " WAR OF NERVES". END OF SUMMARY

2. AN EDITORIAL IN MASS- CIRCULATION ZYCIE WARSZAWY
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MARCH 17 HAS CALLED ATTENTION TO RUMORS CIRCULATING IN WASHINGTON (AS THE RESULT OF AN EVANS AND NOWAK REPORT) THAT REVIEWED BOMBING IN VIETNAM IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. TYING THESE RUMORS TO PRESIDENT NIXON' S STATEMENT ABOUT " POSSIBLE REACTION" (THE PHRASE IS ZYCIE' S) IF NORTH VIETNAM DOES NOT CEASE VIOLATING THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE AUTHOR CONCLUDES THAT THE US, WHILE " OBSERVING THE CONDITIONS" OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT, HAS LAUNCHED A " WAR OF NERVES".

3. THE ARTICLE REJECTS AS " TOO IMPRECISE" ACCUSATIONS, PURPORTEDLY SERVING AS THE PRETEXT FOR THIS WAR OF NERVES, THAT NORTH VIETNAM IS REINFORCING ITS ARMY IN SOUTH VIETNAM. " IF BAD WILL EXISTS, EVEN A SINGLE SOLDIER REPLACING A COLLEAGUE EXHAUSTED BY LONG EFFORT CAN SERVE AS SUCH A PRETEXT". ON THE CONTRARY, THE AUTHOR ACCUSES THE US OF HAVING LAUNCHED A " TRIAL BALLOON" TO SERVE ITS OWN INTERNAL POLITICAL PURPOSES AND " TEST INTERNATIONAL REACTION". EVEN SO, HE CONCLUDES THAT " WITH THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL DISPOSITION (OF POWER) IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT ANYONE IN WASHINGTON EXCEPT COLD- WAR MANIACS CAN SERIOUSLY CONSIDER RENEWAL OF THE BOMBING".

4. FINALLY, THE AUTHOR SAYS THAT THE US WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO URGE ITS " SAIGON CLIENTS" TO UPHOLD THE PEACE AGREEMENT AND TO STOP " ADDING TO SAIGON' S POTENTIAL" AT THE PRESENT RATE.

5. COMMENT : THIS REACTION TO ALLEGED RUMORS ON RENEWAL OF THE BOMBING CONTAINS A SOMEWHAT STRONGER PARTISAN TONE THAN IS USUAL IN POLISH PRESS COMMENTARIES ON THE VIETNAM ISSUE. STILL, THE AUTHOR' S ADMISSION THAT THE US ITSELF IS FULFILLING THE CONDITIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND THE FACT THAT THE ARTICLE APPEARED IN NOMINALLY INDEPENDENT ZYCIE WARSZAWY RATHER THAN PARTY ORGAN TRYBUNA LUDU, TAKES SOME OF THE EDGE OFF AND INDICATES THAT THE POLES, WHILE WISHING TO REGISTER THEIR DISQUIET OVER RECENT EVENTS ON THE VIETNAM FRONT, ARE AS SENSITIVE AS EVER TO THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE US.

DAVIES

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